

**SUMMARY OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT IN NORTH CAROLINA
Fiscal Year 2007-08**

The Social Services Block Grant provides federal funds to support helping people achieve or maintain a greater degree of economic self-support or self-sufficiency, to prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation of children and adults who are unable to protect their own interests, and to prevent inappropriate institutional care or secure appropriate institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate. It is estimated that North Carolina's share of SSBG funds for State Fiscal Year 2007-08 will be approximately \$53,912,940 (including a carry-forward amount of \$4,995,556 from SFY 2006 and \$45,000 in Supplemental Emergency Funds for Hurricane Relief) which will be used to support thirty-two social services (see attached list). An additional amount of \$14,319,549 from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant will also be transferred to the Social Services Block Grant.

The primary providers of these services are the one hundred county departments of social services. Other agencies regularly receiving Social Services Block Grant funds to support services include local health departments, area or county mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse programs through the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, the Division of Services for the Blind, the Division of Aging and Adult Services, the Division of Child Development, the Division of Health Service Regulation, the Office of the Secretary, the Division of Public Health, the Department of Administration: Commission of Indian Affairs, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Child Medical Evaluation program at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will also receive SSBG funding for SFY 2008.

Social Services Block Grant funds support a broad array of services to persons in need. A portion of the funds within this block grant have been used to help meet the rapidly growing demand for day care services for children and in-home services for the elderly. Because of North Carolina's large number of working mothers, it is vitally important that child care services be available. The provision of child care services continues to be critical to the success of families leaving welfare for work and maintaining employment, which is the main goal of welfare reform. In addition, Social Services Block Grant funds are one of two funding sources available to provide child care services to support families in crisis and situations in which child protective services are needed due to the occurrence of child abuse or neglect. Also, with the growing number of citizens over 65, there is a continuing increase in the need for in-home services to help enable our senior citizens to remain in their own homes. In-home services include In-Home Aide Services, Adult Day Care, Preparation and Delivery of Meals, and Housing and Home Improvement.

Of the thirty services supported with SSBG funds, thirteen are mandated to be provided in every county to persons meeting the eligibility guidelines (see the following list). Five of these are also required by State law. They are Foster Care Services for Adults, Foster Care Services for Children, Protective Services for Adults, Protective Services for Children, and Adoption Services. The remaining 17 services may be provided at the discretion of State or local governments.

The Department of Health and Human Services is the single designated agency in North Carolina for administering the Social Services Block Grant. During State Fiscal Years 1982-83 and 1983-84 the Department delegated much of Social Services Block Grant policy and administrative responsibility to the Division of Social Services within the Department. During this time the State also took advantage of simplified federal policies. Because of these changes, the administration of Social Services Block Grant

funds (defining services, establishing eligibility and fee policy, etc.) is now carried out by the respective Divisions that receive the funds in a manner consistent with the general approach applicable to their other services.

SERVICES SUPPORTED WITH SSBG FUNDS

1. Adjustment Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired*
2. Adoption Services*
3. Adult Placement Services*
4. Community Living Services
5. Day Care Services for Adults
6. Child Care Services*
7. Children and Adults Needing Mental Health, Developmental Disability and/or Substance Abuse Services
8. Delinquency Prevention Services
9. Employment and Training Support Services
10. Family Planning Services*
11. Family Preservation Services
12. Family Support Services
13. Foster Care Services for Adults*
14. Foster Care Services for Children*
15. Health Support Services* (sterilization component is optional)
16. Home Care Services includes Skilled Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Medical Social Services, and/or Nutrition Care
17. Housing and Home Improvement Services
18. Individual and Family Adjustment Services*
19. In-Home Aide Services*
20. In-Home Aide Services for the Blind*
21. Intensive Family Preservation Services
22. Personal and Family Counseling
23. Preparation and Delivery of Meals
24. Problem Pregnancy Services
25. Protective Services for Adults*
26. Protective Services for Children*
27. Residential Treatment for the Emotionally Disturbed
28. Respite Care Services
29. Transportation Services
30. Youth Services